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DTR - 3536
69-277

13 JUN 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : The National Interdepartmental Seminar

**REFERENCE : Routing Slip remarks, O/Ex Dir to DD/S
and DTR, dtd 27 May, re subj and memo
from DD/P dtd 24 May**

1. This memorandum is in response to your request for information about our students' reactions and our commitment to the National Interdepartmental Seminar.

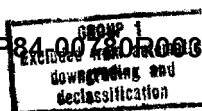
Summary of Student Reaction

2. Of a total of 122 CIA graduates of the Seminar in the past three years, 71 have submitted written critiques. The majority of these graduates found the Seminar a stimulating and broadening experience and a useful vehicle for the Agency (see attachment). Similar conclusions could also be drawn from oral comments of our students during the course.

3. Of these 71 officers, 65 found the Seminar of definite value and praised it with varying degrees of enthusiasm, whereas six found it of little or no value. Many of the 65 felt that they had gained better insights into the national policy process as well as greater awareness of the diversity and complexity of factors with which the United States must concern itself in the underdeveloped countries. In being exposed to the objectives as well as problems and concerns of the other major foreign affairs agencies, a number observed that the Seminar had lifted their sights above their own preoccupations and parochial concerns in the Agency and had served to focus their thinking on the broader problems of U.S. interests and foreign policy options. A number also commented on the Seminar

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as a forum for "de-mystifying" the Agency and promoting a better understanding of its role in the Government's foreign affairs community. Of the remaining six officers, two found the Seminar of no value ([] and [] 43rd Session); one believed it had outlived its usefulness, although he found much in it of value ([] 40th Session); three found it of little direct value to them, but did not go so far as to recommend its discontinuance ([] 43rd Session; [] 36th Session).

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Background of Agency Commitment to NIS

4. With reference to the Agency's commitment, the Seminar was established by Presidential Directive in 1962, reaffirmed in 1964, and again in 1969 -- just prior to the change of Administrations. The latter reaffirmation grew out of the adoption by the Senior Interdepartmental Group on 23 May 1968 of the new Foreign Internal Defense Policy (FIDP) which replaced the old 1962 policy on this subject. Recognizing that the new policy would affect the Seminar's curriculum, the SIG directed the Interdepartmental Committee on Training to review the structure, goals, methods and content of the Seminar to ensure the assimilation in the training of the new policy's guidelines. As a result, the Seminar's content was substantially restructured to place greater emphasis on policy problems -- the analysis and definition of the process and consequences of peaceful and of revolutionary change in the underdeveloped countries in relation to the United States national interests. The SIG approved this revision, including the Seminar's reduction from four to three weeks, as well as the revised statement of training policy and objectives relating to foreign internal defense on 3 January 1969.

Current Status of NIS

5. With so many matters before it, the new Administration has yet to give consideration to either the FIDP or the NIS. In this regard, the Politico-Military Affairs Group of the Department of State has taken the only action in sending the FIDP, along with strong recommendations that it be reaffirmed, to the Review Group for study and referral to the National Security Council. The Review Group has yet to act on it. Meanwhile, officials in State, who have direct responsibility for administering the new policy, have indicated that they anticipate no difficulty in connection with the FIDP's reaffirmation. Indications regarding the probable status of the NIS have been reflected by Under Secretary Alexis Johnson, who stated that he regards the NIS as a desirable training program and that he favors its continuation. He made this statement at a meeting on 9 April

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Problems of Student Mix

Future Direction

HUGH T. CUNNINGHAM
Director of Training

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